FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PRESIDENT VIDELA MEETS WITH MILITARY COMMITTEE

PY142314Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2255 GMT 14 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (TELAM)--The meeting of the Military Committee held at the headquarters of the Argentine Navy ended at 1930 after 2 hours of talks. The meeting was attended by the president of the nation, the commanders in chief of the three branches of the armed forces, the chief of the joint armed forces staff, the secretaries general of the three branches of the armed forces, and Argentine Foreign Minister Carlos W. Pastor.

ARMY COMMANDER BRIEFS HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS ON BEAGLE

PY141637Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1554 GMT 14 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (NA)--It was officially reported that the highest-ranking army officers analyzed the state of the bilateral negotiations with Chile and matters pertaining to the army for 3 hours today. The army communique states:

"As of 0930 today a meeting of the highest-ranking officers was held at the Libertador General San Martin Building, army headquarters. During the meeting, Lt Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola reported on the state of the bilateral negotiations with Chile, and specific matters pertaining to the army's activities were discussed. The meeting concluded at 1230."

CLARIN CRITICIZES REMARKS BY CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S.

PY150056Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 14 Dec 78 p 8 PY

[Text] The attitudes of Chilean diplomacy--which can certainly be viewed only as reflecting the position of the government--become contradictory in these difficult times of the negotiating process to the point that, at best, they can be termed obtuse.

Such is the case of a recent interview granted by the Chilean ambassador to the United States, Jose Miguel Barros, to the magazine COSAS, which is published in Santiago de Chile. With absolute thoughtlessness--and at times when the greatest efforts were being made to keep negotiations peaceful--Ambassador Barros stated that "there is a risk of war when positions are as much in conflict as those of Chile and Argentina." This remark is more than just unfortunate, and it is not unreasonable to believe that its aim is to irritate--something which the Argentine Government, at least, has done its best to avoid.

This is not the only example of obtuseness on the part of the Chilean diplomat in his talk with the COSAS journalist. Barros also said that "Chile does not believe in negotiations in which it would have to give up its rights to the Picton, Lennox and Nueva islands, because it defends its rights." He added that "Chile has insisted that the 1881 treaty is ambiguous, and that if no solution is found, Chile will seek the intervention of The Hague International Court of Justice in order to find a solution."

Gen Augusto Pinochet Ugarte's government is perfectly aware--and its actions seem to prove this so far--that the only possible way to an equitable solution is bilateral negotiations in order to agree upon the area which must be submitted for mediation in line with the spirit of the Puerto Montt Act. Therefore, the question is why, while Foreign Minister Cubillos goes to Buenos Aires to keep negotiations alive, does Chilean diplomacy, through one of its representatives, try to reduce the validity of these negotiations? One can only believe that there is a dual attitude, or at least an unauthorized personal action.

The latter possibility does not seem too convincing if we take into account the fact that Ambassador Barros has on his record the experience of having been the main Chilean negotiator at the court of arbitration appointed by the British Crown. With this on his record, he is a "mandatory source of advice," and the Chilean Foreign Ministry has frequently used him. If his is the position of the Chilean Government, it will merely hinder any possibility of an agreement; if this is an unauthorized action, something must be corrected.

MILITARY EXERCISES TO BE HELD IN CHILEAN BORDER AREA

PY141358Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1332 GMT 14 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Mendoza, 14 Dec (NA)--Brig Gen Juan Pablo Saa, commander of the 8th mountain infantry brigade, reported through a communique that international highway No 7, in the sector between Punta de Vacas and Las Cuevas, including the trans-Andean tunnel, will be closed to traffic between 0800 and 1700 on Saturday, Sunday, and Tuesday. According to this official notice, the measure is because there will be military exercises in the mountains, including target practice and detonation of explosives.

A communique was released last night by the 11th group of the border guard, based in Godoy Cruz Department [Mendoza Province], reporting that traffic to and from Chile had been interrupted due to water seepage and rock slides at the mouth of the trans-Andean tunnel. The communique adds that this situation will continue "until the existing abnormalities are overcome."

MALVINAS ISLANDS TALKS WITH GREAT BRITAIN TO RESUME

PY141231Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Argentina and Great Britain will hold a new round of negotiations regarding the sovereignty of the Malvinas, South Georgia, and South Sandwich islands in Geneva. The Argentine delegation headed by the under secretary of foreign relations, Capt Walter Allara, will leave tomorrow. The round of negotiations began on 13 July 1977 in Rome, Italy, and continued on 13 December 1977 in New York, and on 13 February 1978 in Lima, Peru.

COMMISSION OF 25 CALLS FOR CHRISTMAS PRISONER RELEASE

PY150151Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 14 Dec 78 p 12 PY

[Text] The Commission of the 25 yesterday disclosed the text of notes sent to the president and the commanders in chief of the three branches of the armed forces requesting the release of political and union prisoners and persons included under the act of institutional responsibility, "on the occasion of the Christian holiday of Christmas."

The text reads: "The reason behind this request does not need to be stated, since we are sure you are aware of it. Nonetheless, through this request, we as workers wish to affirm our deep Christian faith and our renewed hope in the realization of justice and peace."

In conclusion the union petition expresses the desire that "on this Christmas there will not be one single Argentine separated from his loved ones because of a political reason unimportant in the nation's history."

EX-PRESIDENT ILLIA INTERVIEWED ON POLITICAL ISSUES

PA141648Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1206 GMT 13 Dec 78 FY

[Text] San Juan, 14 Dec (NA)--Former President Arturo Illia called on the armed forces to make known "once and for all" the expected political proposal and said that "we are willing to commit ourselves to a statute" setting rules. He also criticized the current economic policy and pointed out that "we will study with patriotism and without prejudice" the government proposals aimed at a political opening.

Illia made these remarks during an interview published yesterday by the local afternoon newspaper TRIBUNA DE LA TARDE. He said that "we live in a disorganized country" but that "if it is true that we want to build a better country, it is necessary that the unions, businessmen, political parties, the armed forces and the church itself organize themselves."

He also referred to the armed forces' political proposal and indicated that it is necessary that "this be known once and for all," and that "we are willing to commit ourselves to a statute" and, with regard to its proposals, "we will study them with patriotism and without prejudice."

Illia then said that "the elitism of some members of the military government is something which cannot be accepted. It seems that they want to return to a platonic concept which not even Plato was able to achieve in reality."

Illia believes that the current political system "is completely erroneous due to the concentration of capital in the federal capital, such as by forming leading enterprises, as advocated by Economy Minister Martinez de Hoz, and due to the lack of financial control by the Argentine Central Bank." He said that this is "absolutely contrary to our country's interests."

Illia said that there are three ways to organize the economy: State control; private control "without any obstructions, as is currently taking place in Argentina; and state control under a coherent plan but without taking over the means of production." He said that the latter "was our philosophy" when he was president, and he added that "we planned to do this without favoring the interests of any sector and within a system which functioned, above all, in full respect of the law."

Illia also referred to Videla's presence at the dinner organized last week by the organization of former legislators and national officials. In this regard, he said that "obviously, this served to lessen tensions. It should be labeled as a positive step, but we will have to wait for events to confirm this attitude. With regard to the opening of dialog, conclusions cannot be drawn from a simple meeting."

In conclusion, Illia reiterated the need for political party activity for which "it is necessary to issue a statute setting rules."

BRIEFS

ARGENTINE OIL PRODUCTION--Government Oil Deposits (YPF) has reported that oil production during 1978 will be 26 million cubic meters, and it is expected that during 1979 oil production will reach 27.2 million cubic meters. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 Dec 78 FY]

PRESIDENT PINOCHET HOLDS MEETING ON BEAGLE CONFLICT

PY141530Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1448 GMT 14 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 14 Dec (AFP)--It was reported that Chilean President Augusto Pinochet met here today with all ranking generals and admirals. Among other things they will reportedly discuss the southern border dispute in the Beagle Channel area.

PINOCHET REJECTS MEETING WITH ARGENTINE PRESIDENT VIDELA

PY141729Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1708 GMT 14 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 14 Dec (AFP)--Chilean President Augusto Pinochet rejected here today a possible meeting with his Argentine colleague, Jorge Videla, in order to overcome the southern border dispute regarding the Beagle Channel. Pinochet thus denied reports from Argentina which indicated this possibility, due to the stagnation of Tuesday's talks, after the meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries. When questioned by reporters about this hypothetical meeting with President Videla, Pinochet answered laconically: "There is no such meeting." He added that a meeting of this nature can only occur after everything has been resolved.

Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos and his Argentine colleague, Carlos Pastor, approved the mediation of the Vatican as a path toward achieving a solution, but Chile rejected the conditions proposed by the Buenos Aires government for implementing this conciliatory action. Pinochet repeated this position and asked the question: "If (Argentina) is placing so many obstacles in our way, why do we need a mediator?"

NAVY OFFICIAL REPORTS ALL CALM IN BEAGLE CHANNEL

PY140124Y Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpt] Capt Gaston Droguet, commander of the Chilean naval base in Puerto Williams, has reported that absolute calm prevails in the Beagle Channel, where Chile and Argentina have a border dispute. He said: We have not noticed any offensive movement on the part of the Argentine forces stationed in the region. He added: Since the number of ships in the area remains unchanged, there is no reason to fear immediate action. But we are prepared to face any situation. Each man is perfectly aware of what he is supposed to do.

Meanwhile, the Chilean Government has been studying the U.S. proposal for OAS intervention in the Argentine-Chilean conflict over their southern border to safeguard peace on the continent. This proposal has elicited a favorable reaction from the Chilean Foreign Ministry.

MIR MEMBER SEEKS ASYLUM AT VENEZUELAN EMBASSY

PY141147Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpt] The Venezuelan Embassy has requested information on a member of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] who has requested asylum at that embassy. Official sources reported that this request was submitted to the Interior Ministry, which will study the extremist's dossier.

A woman dressed as a nun walked into the embassy using an alias. After removing her disguise, she requested asylum. Police reports state that she is an extremist who has been identified as 27-year-old (Maria Eliana Rivera Quesada). She is married and has two children. She is being sought by the police for involvement in terrorist activities in Santiago.

JOINT DECLARATION CONCLUDES CONSALVI VISIT

PA140358Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2155 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 13 Dec (LATIN)--The governments of Colombia and Venezuela today agreed to promote border integration and the development of joint ventures. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi and Colombian Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas issued a joint declaration today in which they summarized the subjects discussed during Consalvi's 3-day visit which ended today.

The foreign ministers expressed pleasure over the agreement reached by the Colombian-Venezuelan commission responsible for implementing the demarcation of the Oca Mountains and the Perija and Motilones ranges up to the Oro River, the conclusion of which is now planned for the first quarter of 1979. This demarcation is not related to the dispute over marine and submarine areas in the Gulf of Venezuela which has existed between the two countries for the past 12 years.

The foreign ministers decided to cooperate in organizing the summit conference of presidents of the five Andean Pact countries, which will be held in Cartagena, Colombia, on 26 May 1979, the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Cartagena agreement. In addition, the mixed commission which is in charge of the development of the joint hydrographic basins, particularly the Arauca River, which both countries are dredging, will meet in San Cristobal, Venezuela, within 60 days. Among other things, they decided to share the responsibility for the technical management of this work. The two governments will reach a comprehensive agreement on this river within the same period. The commission will study the problem of illegal immigration by Colombian workers to Venezuela, as well as other types of travel, such as tourism.

Consalvi and Uribe expressed their deep concern over the serious events that have occurred and are occuring in Nicaragua, and their repercussions for the peace and security of the region. They said that this attitude is consistent with the complaints which the presidents of both countries lodged in the United Nations on 27 September on the genocide perpetrated by President Anastasio Somoza's government against the people of Nicaragua, which was confirmed by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

They rejected the unjust and inequitable structure of international economic relations and expressed their concern for the continuing deterioration of the world's economic situation and its grave repercussions for the international economic community, especially for the developing countries. They expressed support for immediate structural changes in international economic relations to insure the establishment of a new international economic order, which is indispensable not only for the Third World countries, but for the future of the international economic community.

They expressed their opposition to the international arms race, particularly in Latin America. Due to their concern over the proliferation, trade and transfer of conventional arms which deprives the developing countries of resources for their economic and social welfare, the foreign ministers are promoting constant consultations among the countries of the region. These consultations must stimulate initiatives which will make it possible to obtain tangible results in arms limitations.

The two foreign ministers agreed on the necessity of presenting the problems of information dependency to the different international organizations to create a movement in favor of a new information order that will change the present flow of news.

TURBAY AYALA TO ATTEND INAUGURATION IN VENEZUELA

PA130442Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala will visit Caracas next year to attend the inaugural ceremony of President-elect Luis Herrera Campins. The chief of state today received two official invitations to attend the ceremony, one from President Carlos Andres Perez and the other from his successor, Luis Herrera Campins.

Although the Colombian president has not yet given an official response, official sources said that Turbay Ayala will attend the inaugural ceremony of his Venezuelan colleague. This will be President Turbay Ayala's first trip abroad since the beginning of his administration. He has also received invitations from the International Labor Organization to visit Geneva and from the Soviet Government to visit the USSR.

GOVERNMENT DELAYS NEW MINIMUM WAGE DECREE

PA150230Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Labor Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal said tonight that the government will delay the issuance of the new minimum wage decree until the end of next week. The government will establish the amount of the new minimum wage by decree because the National Wage Council's efforts in this regard have failed.

Meanwhile, labor observers said that the postponement of the minimum wage decree is due to the angry reaction of the labor confederations over the wage council's failure and the subsequent announcement that the minimum wage increase would not exceed 18 percent. The same sources said that the minimum wage decree (?will come closer to the labor sector's demands).

Labor Sector Disturbed

PA140353Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--The labor sector today demanded that the government make a thorough revision of the system being used in the [wage] negotiations and demanded a mechanism that will permit an effective tripartite system. The statement was issued by one of the labor centrals that was again frustrated by the National Wage Council. It openly blamed employers for failing to reach an agreement. It said that this policy obliges the government to establish other methods which will permit an effective tripartite system. It urged the business sector to give up some of its large profits and restrict its enrichment in order to prevent sad consequences for the country's socioeconomic development.

Before the wage council's failure, the Confederation of Workers of Colombia [CTC] had proposed a minimum monthly wage of 3,780 pesos for industrialized cities and 3,600 pesos for intermediate cities and the rural sector. According to an official source, the new minimum wage will be 3,092 pesos per month for industrialized cities and 2,849.70 pesos per month for intermediate cities and the agrarian sector.

BRIEFS

NEW RAILROAD LINE--The Colombian Government has announced the construction of a railroad to the coal fields along the Guajira coast. A thermoelectric powerplant with a 150,000-kw capacity will be built to burn coal transported by this railroad. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Dec 78 PA]

COMMENTATOR CRITICIZES HUMAN RIGHTS PRIESTS

PY141229Y Asuncion Red Privada de Emisoras in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Dec 78 PY

[From the Colorado Party executive board program: "The Voice of the Colorado Party"]

[Excerpts] At this moment when political opportunists following communist tactics are once again trying to make a strong impact on the national scene with the much distorted issue of human rights, we wish to make a concrete statement which must be taken into account. We are not afraid of these unfortunate adventurers who fell into the Bolshevik trap, who are happiest whenever they can cause the greatest possible damage to the country, nor do we attach any significance to them; but we cannot remain silent in the face of the situations they have unleashed with the direct complicity of the so-called independent press and certain sectors which should not become involved in political activities, since their mission is of a spiritual nature, that is, above the sectors, party politics, and frictions or disagreements which may exist in the temporal field.

Those who believe this is the proper way to comply with their Christian apostleship are mistaken. We are stating this, accepting as a general rule that their actions are not motivated by deceitfulness or perversity. It is not by supporting a few useful idiots, decrepit advocates of political chicanery, that problems will be solved but, on the contrary, by guiding the sons of the fatherland--who are also the sons of the church--those who are misguided, those who are mistaken, those who are promoting communism and who are also outside religion. Their actions must be aimed at these people, to help them return to the right path.

It is a pity that certain bad foreign priests have been openly meddling in questions which do not concern them, since the priest's function is not to engage in political activities, especially in a foreign country, much less give hand and support to Marxist movements with atheist principles.

Isn't it perhaps well known that if someday we are faced with the disgrace of falling under the communist ferocity in our country, the first to face the firing squads will be the priests, nuns, and all those committed to Christian endeavors. Therefore, it is surprising to find men who still follow this pattern of behavior, despite the ample tangible evidence of the true meaning of communism. Promoting human rights is a lofty, important goal, but only if it is applied in the true sense, that is, when rights such as freedom, justice, honor, and so forth are at stake. It is something entirely different to defend criminals, terrorists or assassins. How could one conceive that the church and those organizations which claim to defend human rights should defend terrorists who machinegun people at point-blank range, or who plant bombs in private homes, killing children and innocent people.

Therefore, we must act with an iron hand in the face of these situations, since these campaigns may deceive people having little information. Human rights are respected in our country, as they should be. In an advanced country of the West, where democracy is claimed to exist, there is a draft law under study denying terrorist murderers the right to legal counsel. This is natural, this is the way it should be, even though this may seem to violate rights. But what rights should someone who has no regard for the lives of others and who commits premeditated murder have? Therefore, as good Paraguayans and as good Colorado members, we must continue on our path, with our behavior. We are on the right path, and we must keep on this path, following the guidelines established by the Colorado Party and by our leader, President Alfredo Stroessner.

PRESIDENT DEFENDS MILITARY LAW REJECTED BY ASSEMBLY

PA141622Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0419 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpts] Lima, 13 Dec (EFE)--The Peruvian president said today that the armed forces commands are bent on upholding the military law his government has enacted. The law was rejected by the Constituent Assembly.

Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez said that "it is vital and of transcendent importance" to defend the country's military institutions, "keeping them from being reviled and ridiculed."

The chief of state said that the new code of military justice has not been enacted to defend members of such bodies or of the government but "the fatherland's tutelary and eternal institutions."

Although he did not say so openly, the statement is considered to be a reply to last week's rejection of the law by the assembly as being "illegal and unconstitutional."

All groups represented in the assembly, ranging from the rightist Popular Christian Party (PPC) to the Trotskiyite front, voted to declare the decree illegal and "unenforceable" during Tuesday's plenary session. The motion was supported by the Aprist party, in the majority, and representatives of the PPC and the Christian Democratic Party.

Marxist groups asked for a more radical resolution and even demanded an end to the military government, which they accuse of seeking to reestablish "a crude totalitarianism, leading to impunity" by officers who are active in politics.

The new law has also been criticized by Peru's two living former presidents, Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero, a noted international jurist, and Fernando Belaunde, the last constitutional president, whose party did not participate in the elections for the assembly.

In a speech delivered today during a military ceremony, Morales said that criticism is good but that attacks on the armed forces cannot be tolerated. On the other hand, he admitted "errors which we ourselves have criticized in a calm and loyal way," thus alluding to the so-called "first phase" of the Peruvian revolution led by the late Gen Juan Velasco Alvarado.

COPPER CORPORATION DENOUNCES SABOTAGE BY MINERS

PA141340Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2355 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpts] Lima, 13 Dec (LATIN)--The U.S. Southern Peru Copper Corporation has denounced alleged sabotage in the Cuajone copper mine before the Labor Ministry. The miners' federation today rejected the charge and said that there is an attempt to undermine the workers' union struggle.

The Southern Peru Copper Corporation said that since Saturday the 1,200 workers have been on a slowdown and that there has been a 25-percent decrease in daily production. The company added that unidentified individuals had filled the suction pumps, where the mineral is separated from useless material, with rocks.

Maximo Paz Calle, secretary of defense of the federation [title as received], told LATIN that the Cuajone workers are continuing negotiations in the Labor Ministry and that they will go to Moquegua tomorrow to report results to the union. He said the union will then decide whether or not to renew the strike.

Paz Calle said that with its charges the company "is trying to discredit the Cuajone union movement in order to attribute a false character to the workers' struggle." He added that this was understood by the labor authorities, who have continued to negotiate normally with the union.

AWARD GIVEN TO CUBAN MILITARY ATTACHE BRAVO YANES

FL132346Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2306 GMT 13 Dec 78 FL

[Text] The Peruvian military Cross of Merit was awarded to Col Manuel Bravo Yanes, army, navy and air attache to the Cuban Embassy, at the end of his diplomatic mission to Peru. The award at the "comendador" grade was presented by Gen (Leonicio Pereciano), army inspector general, who was representing Prime Minister and General Commandant Gen Oscar Molina Palochia. The ceremony was held in the Awards Hall of the Peruvian War Ministry and was attended by Cuban Ambassador to Peru Luis Karakadze Berrayarza, top army officers and members of the diplomatic corps. The Cuban militaryman expressed his thanks for the award and expressed his wish that Peruvian-Cuban friendship would be further strengthened for the achievement of progress of their two peoples.

BRIEFS

ANDEAN RESERVE FUND LOAN--Lima, 11 Dec (AFP)--Central Reserve Bank President Manuel Moreyra has announced that the Andean Reserve Fund has loaned Peru $37.5 million to help Peru's balance of payments. Moreyra said that this is the last credit concluded within Peru's program of restructuring the debt. The recently created Andean Reserve Fund is made up of the central banks of the members of the Andean Pact. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0243 GMT 12 Dec 78 PA]

PRESIDENT PEREZ CRITICIZES OAS SILENCE ON NICARAGUA

PA150051Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2154 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 14 Dec (AFP)--Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez expressed here today his indignation over the OAS silence in connection with the violation of human rights in Nicaragua. "It is disturbing, and it causes amazement and indignation to see that after the OAS Human Rights Commission presented its document to the organization, total silence has ensued, as if nothing had happened in that country," Perez commented. He added that a "really unbearable" situation exists at present, and that it is necessary to do something [word indistinct]. Otherwise, the international organizations will lose all their credibility and will be discredited, "since it is not possible for other countries to remain silent after such dreadful crimes as the ones committed in that country (Nicaragua) have been denounced."

PRESIDENT PEREZ COMMENTS ON ELECTIONS, FUTURE PLANS

PA141635Y Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 9 Dec 78 p 1,2 PA

[Excerpts] President Carlos Andres Perez today began the first day of his official visit to Tachira, extending Christmas and new year's greetings to civilian and military personnel of the Murachi garrison. In Rubio, his birthplace, President Carlos Andres Perez walked along the Avenue of the Americas to the house of Mr Pedro Padilla. He was questioned by newsmen about his opinion of the election results.

[Perez said:] "I feel like any other Venezuelan. It was a great civic contest, and the people voted freely. There was no violence, which gives one an idea of the patriotism and maturity of the Venezuelan people." "As for the results," he added, "two great political groups were in evidence: Democratic Action [AD] and the Social Christian Party (COPEI). The party with the coalition was the winner. On the other side was a party which obtained almost half of the votes, but since in an electoral process only one candidate is chosen president, victory goes to the one who receives the largest number of votes. We have to be fully satisfied with the result of the process since it was the national desire, the desire of the Venezuelan people."

[Question] Mr President, do you feel defrauded by the result of the elections?

"No, not in the least," the president answered. "I cannot feel defrauded by the election results because, in the first place, my government is honored and proud of having held elections which are an example of the Venezuelan people's civic maturity. Of course, I could and did hope for a different winner. I would have wanted the victory to go to another candidate, but that does not make me feel defrauded since the essential thing is the Venezuelan people's democratic exercise of the vote."

[Question] Mr President, will you direct AD in the opposition?

"AD is a party of collective leadership," he replied, adding that "AD has an organization and bylaws according to which it operates. It is up to that AD leadership to direct the destiny of the organization. I will not aspire to any managerial or executive post within the party. I will be part of its national directorate and will work hard and with determination alongside my party in all its future tasks, as I have been doing since I joined the founding cell of the AD in the PDN [National Democratic Party] when I was 15 years old."

CUBAN OFFICIAL VISITS PRESIDENT-ELECT HERRERA CAMPINS

FL141137Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Dec 78 FL

[Text] In Caracas, Venezuelan President-elect Luis Herrera Campins has received Haydee Santamaria, director of Casa de las Americas. Herrera Campins had a cordial conversation with the visitor and sent greetings to Cuban Council of State President Fidel Castro. Haydee Santamaria is visiting that South American country at the invitation of the Caracas Athenium.

HERRERA CAMPINS MEETS COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR, OTHERS

PA150225Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Freddy Baptista report]

[Text] President-elect Luis Herrera Campins is fulfilling a tight work schedule today. People continue to visit him at La Herrerena, the house of the now president-elect, who was chosen by popular will. Arismendi Street in Sebocan neighborhood has a different aspect now: Honor guard officers, civilian security personnel, green army cars and two cadillacs from Miraflores Palace, one for the president-elect and the other belonging to the military household.

For her part, Mrs Betty Urdaneta de Herrera Campins has also been receiving many people, especially women. Today we saw her, along with her secretary, Mrs Milagros de Gonzalez, and her daughter, Maria Luisa Herrera Urdaneta, receiving numerous women.

The members of the board of directors of the Confederation of Workers of Venezuala, CTV, and several members of the Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions, CODESA, were among the first to visit the president-elect. The most important issues brought up by the country's foremost labor central concerned the selective immigration of qualified workers and the CTV's current problems with a number of state enterprises. For his part, CODESA President William Franco asked Dr Herrera Campins for greater social justice for the country's poorer sectors. Only in this manner will he have the working people's respect, Franco told him.

Later, Colombian Ambassador to Venezuela Jose Gabriel de la Vega and President-elect Luis Herrera Campins commented that the best of dispositions exists between the Colombian and Venezuelan governments for resolving the current problems between the two countries. At the end of their talks, the president-elect said:

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] much admired sister nation and, of course, the hope that we will again resume the negotiations, the talks [words indistinct] within the framework of the best Latin American and Bolivarian spirits, which call for the reaching of an agreement concerning this delicate issue. This is why I would like to reaffirm here our (?strong) relations of friendship, affection, esteem and recognition for the sister Colombian nation. [end recording]

For his part, the Colombian ambassador categorically denied that the Colombian Embassy here in Caracas had been machinegunned, as reported by several social communications media. That is absolutely false, Ambassador de la Vega affirmed.

DAILY OIL, GAS PRODUCTION REACHES 1.5 MILLION BARRELS

FL141932Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 1855 GMT 14 Dec 78 FL

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 13 Dec [as received] (INFORMEX)--Fulfilling goals established by the present administration, Mexican Petroleum [PEMEX] yesterday reached a daily production of more than 1.5 million barrels of crude oil and liquid gas. The parastate enterprise made the announcement, indicating that out of this production 90 percent or 1,365,357 barrels were crude oil and 10 percent or 144,422 barrels were liquid gas. This production represents a 66-percent increase over that reached in November 1976, which was 907,000 barrels daily.

While noting that the new record production represents a historic event for PEMEX technicians, it was reported that the Mesozoic area of Chiapas-Tabasco accounted for 85 percent, the fields on the northern region 5 percent and the other areas on the southern region 10 percent.

JAPAN TO GRANT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT

FL142053Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 2012 GMT 14 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Tokyo, 13 Dec (INFORMEX-ANSA) [as received]--The financial daily NIKKEI reports that the Industrial Bank of Japan and the companies Mitsuibishi Corporation and Mitsui and Company will grant financial assistance valued at 10 billion pesos to build port facilities and oil pipelines in Mexico. The daily adds that in exchange Japan will receive oil from Mexico in payment for the financial assistance. NIKKEI adds that the company Mexican Petroleum [PEMEX] has informally announced that it is willing to accept the Japanese plan. The aforementioned daily states that the 100 billion yen [as received] will be used to rebuild and expand the port facilities at Salina Cruz on the Pacific coast of Mexico and to build oil pipelines between the port and the oil fields located 300 km away.

The three Japanese firms have formed a group to undertake the operation in coordination with the Mexican authorities, states the daily. The idea to extend Japanese credit to Mexico in order to stimulate the Mexican development effort was first proposed by the Mexican Government to Japan in October and later it was accepted by Japan.

LABOR SECRETARY DISCUSSES COUNTRY'S DECREASING UNEMPLOYMENT

FL132016Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 1944 GMT 13 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Dec (INFORMEX)--Today Pedro Ojeda Paullada, secretary of labor and social welfare, has stated that from September 1977 to October 1978 the unemployment rate in Mexico decreased by 8.1 percent through the creation of 550,000 new jobs. The official reported that these figures are the statistics of the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), the organization which stated that during this same period the number of people in the work force increased by 360,000 workers to 4.823 million in October 1978, surpassing the 4.463 million members it had in September 1977. Ojeda Paullada also stated that significant advances had been made in increasing job opportunities while at the same time encouraging procedures aimed at improving the well-being of the working class. Lastly, he called for the need to set up a national work administration so that unemployment will continue to decrease.

The statements by the labor and social welfare secretary were made after the signing of a new work convention regulating relations between the IMSS and its 133,000 workers.

PRESIDENT ROYO TO VISIT CANAL ZONE INSTALLATIONS

PA150212Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Panamanian President Aristides Royo will pay an important visit next Saturday to various Canal Zone installations. According to reports, he will visit ports, docks, highways, canal locks and other canal installations in order to learn directly about the operation of some installations in the Canal Zone complex. President Royo will be accompanied in his Canal Zone visit by Vice President Ricardo de la Espriella, ministers of state and other high-ranking officials.

NATIONAL GUARD GENERAL STAFF DISCUSSES CANAL ZONE TRANSFER

PA141708Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 14 Dec 78 pp 1, 8A PA

[Text] A meeting which lasted over 5 hours was held yesterday at the headquarters of the National Guard general staff at the request of Commander in Chief Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera. Also present was General Torrijos' personal adviser and the former chief of the negotiating team with the United States, Romulo Escobar Bethancourt.

The fundamental objective of the important meeting was to determine the steps and programs for Panama's entrance into what is at present the Canal Zone, which will disappear as such next year when the Torrijos-Carter treaties enter into force.

The subjects discussed include:

A. The operation of the military coordination board to preserve the autonomy of the National Guard; participation in the joint defense of the canal, and the efficient and highly professional replacement of the police in the Canal Zone when this duty is taken over exclusively by the National Guard.

B. Formulation of concepts which will permit maximum social use of the areas Panama will occupy starting next year. This was one of General Torrijos' oft-repeated promises to the Panamanian people during the negotiations. As determined in the general staff meeting, social use means developing activities related to education, health and recreation in the installations for the largest possible number of Panamanians. In this regard there was a consensus in the general staff that equipping the National Guard will not consist only of arms necessary for military duties. This will be coordinated with furnishing equipment such as tractors, trucks and machinery in general which will permit the National Guard to transform the installations into sites in keeping with the concept of social and collective use.

C. Intensification of activities directed toward reforestation and ecological protection so as to preserve flora and fauna and assure the operation of the canal. The general staff considered the convenience of obtaining experience and training for the National Guard in those areas and also for civilians so that they can work jointly.

At the meeting of the general staff, it was established that our armed institution, by virtue of its new responsibilities, shall carry out studies and make proposals which coincide with the work of the canal authority created by Panama and under the leadership of President Royo's administration, which will implement the agreements of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

The general staff agreed to continue these important meetings on a National Guard level in order to assure a peaceful and orderly occupation of the Panamanian territory that will soon no longer be the Canal Zone.

BELIZE

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY URGES COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE

FL141623Y Kingston Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 78 FL

[Text] The United Nations General Assembly has approved a resolution urging Britain, Guatemala and Belize to speed up negotiations on independence for Belize, Britain's last colony of the American mainland. The General Assembly reaffirmed that inviolability and territorial integrity of Belize should be preserved, and urged the parties involved to refrain from threats and the use of force. Independence for Belize has been delayed by precolonial Guatemalan claims to the internally self-governing territory. The assembly also called on Britain to take measures to bring about Belize's legal independence and not, under any circumstance, to accord the (?puppet) regime any attributes of sovereignty. The General Assembly went on to condemn the so-called internal settlement agreement of March this year and declared it null and void.

COSTA RICA

REPORT ON EVACUATION, INCIDENTS ALONG NICARAGUAN BORDER

PA141256Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Telephone report from Penas Blancas by Hugo Espinosa--live]

[Excerpt] As has been reported, there was a big fire in the city of Rivas at dawn yesterday. Several business establishments were burned. The fire was caused by forces of the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

I must also report that the Sandinists have established a clandestine radio which is constantly broadcasting bulletins calling upon the Nicaraguan people to take up arms for what will be the final offensive to overthrow the Somoza regime.

There was heavy fighting yesterday morning between the Sandinists and the National Guard in (La Cuenta), San Dimas and El Llano. The border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua is completely closed. The Nicaraguan National Guard evacuated all government personnel from the immigration and customs offices. The Costa Rican Government did the same a few hours later. Therefore, the border zone of Penas Blancas has been completely evacuated and is inactive due to yesterday's incidents.

During the past few hours there have been no new incidents with the Sandinists, but it is feared that there will be a big offensive at any moment, as Radio Sandino has been announcing.

Border Posts Reopened

PA141428Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1419 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpt] The border checkpoint of Penas Blancas was reopened just 5 minutes ago. Having received an official message from the Nicaraguan Government that it was sending its officials back to the Penas Blancas border point, the Costa Rican Government ordered that the same step be taken. I repeat, the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border has been reopened.

RADIO RELOJ DENOUNCES SOMOZIST MANEUVERS, SLANDER CAMPAIGN

PA141931Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] A number of underhanded maneuvers are underway in Nicaragua to provoke uncertainty and violence in Costa Rican territory. Somoza's official radio has unleashed a slander campaign against Costa Ricans while urging the Nicaraguans to abstain from visiting our country.

Under the black code of Nicaragua, the domestic network spreads lies about Costa Rica. The latest lie reports imaginary clashes between the Costa Rican Civil Guard and Sandinist guerrillas. This is another lie made up by Rivas' General Evertz following the recent incidents provoked by him on the border which resulted in the death of a Costa Rican Civil Guardsman. He now claims that the fighting took place inside Costa Rican territory.

It is absolutely false that the Sandinists are fighting Costa Rican authorities. What is really happening is that many Somozist elements, known as ears, have been sent to the area to provoke and create disturbances. They are Somozist guardsmen in disguise and they are the real threat.

This is just another of the many tricks invented by Somozism. In fact, the ears have made up many such stories in the past in their constant maneuvers to provoke us. Somoza is trying to create a conflict against Costa Rica or in Costa Rica, and all these actions are so much bait for us to swallow. But we Costa Ricans do not swallow such bait, and even less Somozist lies.

UNCONFIRMED VIOLATION OF TERRITORY BY NICARAGUA REPORTED

PA140440Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] A report that the [Nicaraguan] National Guard entered Costa Rican territory this morning has not been confirmed by the authorities.

According to the administrator of El Valle estate, located 1.5 km from the border with Nicaragua, he was attacked at 0900 with machinegun fire as he was working with 15 employees. Jose Carmen Rodriguez said that the attackers were apparently National Guardsmen. However, this report has not been confirmed.

SECURITY OFFICIALS, NEWSMEN VISIT ALLEGED GUERRILLA CAMP

PA140432Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Ricardo Gonzalez report from northern border--live]

[Excerpt] Newsmen Jose Joaquin Loria and Andres (Borrafe) of LA PRENSA LIBRE took the security minister and top security officials as well as newsmen to an alleged guerrilla camp. Beds made of sticks, a medium-sized kitchen, a cell [as heard] made of sticks, 2 gallons of (lunar) oil, paper with traces of butter and a large quantity of cigarette butts were found at the site.

We opened one of the garbage containers and found pain and cold medications and some posters which mentioned platoon No 2. My attention was drawn [words indistinct], which indicates that a woman had camped there.

When I mentioned that there were some tins of sardines and [word indistinct], public security official Willy Azofeifa said that this was not enough to sustain a large number of people. He actually seemed somewhat irritated.

However, when the public security minister was approached, he said that he did not believe that more than 60 persons lived there, but that there is evidence that an alleged, we repeat alleged, group of Sandinists had been there a few days ago.

PRESIDENT PROPOSES THIRD WORLD COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE

PA141415Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2351 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 13 Dec (AFP)--Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo today proposed that a bloc of Third World countries obtain a satellite to serve their own communications.

In a statement at the newsmen's association last night, Carazo said poor countries should have autonomy in managing communications media requiring the use of satellites. The president expressed fear that nations such as Costa Rica might be inundated with communications signals that would practically obliterate local television stations.

In order to confront this situation, President Carazo asked newsmen to struggle alongside the government in the forthcoming world administrative conference on radio which will be held in Geneva in September.

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENT REASSERTS STAND ON NEGOTIATING WITH TERRORISTS

PA141311Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0322 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Salvadoran President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero reasserted today, Wednesday, that his government will never negotiate with terrorist groups. He also said that he shares the concern of the relatives of the four foreign executives kidnaped by the outlawed Armed Forces of National Resistance [FARN].

Speaking in the hall of honor at the presidential house shortly after receiving the credentials of the new Venezuelan ambassador accredited to this country, Santiago Ochoa Antich, the Salvadoran president recalled that in the past leftist extremists had negotiated although they knew the hostages were dead, as in the case of Roberto Poma, president of the Salvadoran Tourism Institute, and Japanese citizen Fujio Matsumoto, president of the Insinca textile plant.

He said that he had received a note from the Japanese Government regarding Japanese executive Takakazu Suzuki of Insinca, who was kidnaped by the FARN on 7 December. He added that he shares the concern of the Japanese Government and charged the extremists with waging an international campaign to discredit his administration and frighten foreign investors by means of kidnapings and other illegal actions.

He referred to the case of Maj Carlos Nicolas Solorzano, discharged from the armed forces general staff and arraigned before the civil courts under the charge of armed attack. Romero said that Solorzano's discharge from the army and his subsequent arrest are part of his anticorruption campaign which, Romero said, will be applied without regard to class, sex or religious distinctions.

OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON CLASH WITH TERRORISTS

PA141614Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1253 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Salvadoran security forces repeated here tonight that they will continue their struggle against terrorism, subversion and sedition in compliance with the Salvadoran Constitution. The statement was made at the same time it was revealed that "the terrorists killed in an armed clash" on 28 November in a house in the La Providencia District of San Salvador had been members of the Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) for some time, a few for 3 years or more, according to police information and data released to the public by the subversive organization. The authorities revealed that the terrorists were: Rafael Ernesto Barrera Motto (a priest), Valentin Martinez Piche, Rafael Santos Ortiz Elias and Jose Isidro Portillo Paz, known in the subversive criminal world as Felipe, Ruben, Tulio and Agustin, respectively.

An official communique adds that the three men accompanying Father Barrera Motto were in Cuba in August receiving armed and subversive propaganda training. They also took part in the communist youth congress. The communique adds that documents belonging to the FPL, "El Rebelde" propaganda material, photographs and personal letters found in the La Providencia house were seized by authorities.

The security corps added that the area had been cordoned off on the day of the clash in order to prevent the loss of innocent lives.

'POLITICAL REFUGEES' LEAVE FOR PANAMA, COSTA RICA

PA150134Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2241 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Salvadoran human rights commission sources have reported that two political refugees who were in the embassies of Panama and Costa Rica left today, Thursday, for those two countries. The refugees were stage actor Norman Douglas, who was in the Panamanian embassy, and Saul Villata, who was in the Costa Rican Embassy.

It was also learned that safeconducts have already been prepared for German Vinicio Avalos Castro, who is in asylum at the Venezuelan Embassy, and for Francisco Baltazar Campos Mendoza, who is at the Mexican Embassy.

Reynaldo Cruz Menjivar, who reportedly escaped from the jails [as received] of the treasury police, is also in the Venezuelan Embassy. The sources indicated that no safeconduct has been granted to him.

For his part, Foreign Minister Antonio Rodriguez Porth has reiterated that there are no political refugees in El Salvador and that these individuals had no reason to go into asylum because no legal charges have been brought against them.

GUATEMALA

CONGRESS APPROVES NATIONAL BUDGET FOR 1979

PA142321Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0128 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Dec (AFP)--The Guatemalan Congress today approved the general national budget for 1979, the highest in the nation's history, amounting to 1.056 billion quetzales (on a par with the dollar).

At the same time, approval was given to a 140-million quetzales bond issue, which will complete the financing for the budget. The sources of financing are: taxes (57 percent), loans and bonds (38.8 percent) and miscellaneous sources (4.2 percent).

The ministry receiving the largest allocation is public health with 102 million quetzales, followed by defense and education with 62 million and 60 million quetzales, respectively.

NICARAGUA

OFFICIAL DENIES DOWNING OF AIRCRAFT BY SANDINISTS

PA142237Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1948 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Rivas, Nicaragua, 14 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Gen Gonzalo Evertz, chief of the southern military zone, insisted this morning that the shooting which was heard in that region took place on Costa Rican territory. Evertz reaffirmed that his troops, which are guarding the southern border, have not fired a single shot since Monday, 11 December, the date on which Gaspar Garcia Laviana, a Spanish priest and Sandinist commander, was killed in a clash.

"The shots and bursts of machinegun fire which were heard yesterday occurred on the Costa Rican side where, I presume, Costa Rican Civil Guards clashed with Sandinists by mistake," General Evertz said. "If Enrique Montealegre, the Costa Rican vice minister of public security, denies that there was any shooting on the Costa Rican side, it is because he is trying to hide something," Evertz added. He then said that the Nicaraguan National Guard "never hides anything" because the Legal and Public Relations Office always publishes reports after any fighting. The same public relations office confirmed in Managua today that all of yesterday's fighting took place on Costa Rican territory.

In statements to ACAN-EFE, Evertz affirmed that it is false that Sandinist National Liberation Front forces had shot down a Nicaraguan Air Force plane and helicopter. San Jose's Radio Monumental had made such a report based on a Sandinist "combat report" which said that the Nicaraguan National Guard had lost the aircraft in the course of eight shooting incidents "on Nicaraguan soil." General Evertz said that it is true he had a war plane on standby yesterday "for any eventuality" which might arise, but he added that the plane never went into action. The plane only performed reconnaisance work in the Nicaraguan sector of La Virgen, near the Penas Blancas pass, and then returned to base "without firing its guns."

Nicaraguan Army spokesman Col Aquiles Aranda said this morning that the situation on the southern border was calm and the transit had been reestablished after a 24-hour suspension in anticipation of a guerrilla offensive in the area. Colonel Aranda said that after yesterday's shooting "on the Costa Rican side," the National Guard stationed in the sector queried Costa Rican Civil Guardsmen on what was happening, but the Costa Ricans refused to give any information. "They left the sector instead of giving information," Colonel Aranda added.

SANDINISTS ATTACK NATIONAL GUARD PATROLS IN LEON 13 DECEMBER

PA141952Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1847 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 14 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--One insurgent was killed and two civilians were wounded as a result of Sandinist attacks on three Nicaraguan Army patrols in the city of Leon Wednesday night.

One of the patrols was attacked with gunfire and contact bombs in the Vigil neighborhood of Leon. The Legal and Public Relations Office of the National Guard issued a report today in Managua indicating that insurgent Pablo Amador Perez was killed in that clash.

Sandinist forces attacked another patrol on Debayle Avenue in Leon. The soldiers were attacked with fragmentation grenades and gunfire from carbines and pistols. There was a heavy exchange of gunfire which forced the people of Leon to take refuge on the floors of their houses. Nevertheless, there were no casualties in this clash.

Late at night, a third patrol was attacked by guerrillas traveling in a station wagon. The attackers were able to escape without any casualties.

As a result of the tension created by the first three clashes, a fourth incident occurred when a military patrol ordered the occupants of another station wagon to stop. They did not obey the military order and guardsmen opened fire on the passengers of the vehicle. Civilians Juan Ruiz Olivas and Sonia Leyton Altamirano were wounded and taken to a Leon hospital.

FAO LEADER RETURNS TO MANAGUA AFTER VISIT TO COSTA RICA

PA150306Y Managua Estacion X in Spanish 0030 GMT 15 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Alfonso Robelo Calleja, better known as Robelito, returned to Managua from Costa Rica at noon today. Robelito went to Costa Rica to meet with former Rector Carlos Tunnerman, whom he said is only capable of seeing the tops of the trees.

Robelito also tried to meet with the colorful chief of one faction of the Sandino-communist front, but this person did not wish to speak to Robelito or any other member of the [Broad Opposition] Front [FAC] since the Sandinists consider the FAO to be a group of political opportunists who have betrayed the commitments made to the Sandinist Front.

Robelito will explain all this tonight to his fellow FAO members during a meeting to be held in the offices of (Rapss) from which Robelito administered his economic empire before he abandoned his business and transferred his money abroad.

MEDIATORS, FAO LEADERS HOLD EMERGENCY MEETING

PA150308Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0108 GMT 15 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 14 Dec, (ACAN-EFE)--The political commission of the Broad Opposition Front [FAO] unexpectedly met tonight with the international mediation commission which has been in Nicaragua since last October seeking a means of resolving the Nicaraguan problem without bloodshed.

Although the reasons for the emergency meeting were not explained to newsmen, the fact that it had been held was fully confirmed by Javier Zavala, a member of the FAO publicity commission.

It was learned that the meeting was held at the request of the international mediators from the United States, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. The meeting was held at the archbishopric, located 10 km east of this capital.

At the meeting, Luis Sanchez Sancho made his debut as a member of the FAO political commission. Sanchez Sancho replaced Rodolfo Robelo Herrera, who refused to remain as a leader of the opposition coalitition.

The meeting was also attended by Alfonso Robelo, a member of the political commission, who returned from a trip to Costa Rica made in connection with his political activities.

It was also reported that prior to this meeting, the plenum of the FAO visited the installations of the Nicaraguan Red Cross to express the FAO's support for 12 persons who have been on a hunger strike since Tuesday in solidarity with the National University's demand that the government release the university's funds for the last quarter of the year.

WAVE OF BANK ROBBERIES CONTINUES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

PA150046Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2307 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 15 [as received] Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Several youths identified as members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) robbed three banks and financial institutions in the past few hours, taking over 600,000 cordobas (close to $87,000 in loot with them.

The most important holdup was committed by a Sandinist cell which intercepted a Bank of America vehicle as Nastulo Gradis was driving it along 15 September Street, in the western part of Managua.

After overpowering three bank employees and binding their hands, the attackers drove the vehicle to another part of the city and later escaped with a sum of money estimated at 500,000 cordobas ($71,428). Included in that amount was the biweekly payroll of Casa Pellas, one of the largest vehicle distributorships.

Also in this capital, the branch office of La Financiera, a savings and loan institution, was attacked by terrorists for the second consecutive day. The robbers, who covered their faces with stockings, stole 80,000 cordobas ($11,428). La Financiera lost about 60,000 cordobas ($8,571) in the previous holdup.

In Ciudad Dario, in the north, the rebels attacked the branch office of the National Bank of Nicaragua, taking with them the money that was in the safe, which has been estimated at 30,000 cordobas ($4,285).

This afternoon, unidentified elements attacked Distribuidora Rodriguez, a tire shop in the western city of Leon. The preliminary reports on this latest holdup did not specify the amount of money stolen by the unidentified armed youths.

The wave of holdups throughout the country has become practically impossible to stop despite the institutions' efforts, which include the installation of costly and sophisticated alarm systems and other measures aimed at preventing this type of criminal activity.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO GUATEMALA--Managua, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Foreign Minister Julio Quintana today swore in new Nicaraguan Ambassador to Guatemala Fernando Sanchez Herdocia. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2350 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA]

HAVANA COMMENTARY ATTACKS U.S. MEDIATION THROUGHOUT WORLD

FL141447Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 14 Dec 78 FL

[Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry "Combatants' Political Information Program" commentary]

[Text] In recent times, due to the setback in Vietnam, failures in attempting to stifle the Cuban revolution and the growing vigor of world socialism, the Yankee imperialists are resorting to more subtle methods of struggle. One of the methods being used by the United States to obstruct the liberation struggle of peoples is through its ominous mediation.

This formula is well known by the Cubans. We can still remember the role played by Sumner Welles during the time when Washington found itself unable to maintain in power any longer tyrant Machado. The results of that mediation gave Cuba a similar tyrannical regime headed by Fulgencio Batista. A period of corrupt regimes that followed concluded with the triumph of the revolution, overthrowing Batista in his second phase of dictatorship.

In the present Nicaraguan conflict the Washington government introduced its mediating initiative, which has been denounced by progressive sectors as maneuvers aimed at crushing the people's struggle and saving its old and unconditional agent, dictator Somoza. The mediators, headed by the United States, contacted the tyrant and the opposition's conservative groups to convince them that a so-called election should be conducted in which Somoza's future would be decided by popular choice. It would be fitting to ask: What popular choice can take effect today in Nicaragua, where the regime does not respect any right, where murder is perpetrated at will on the fighters and people, where the party convoking elections is precisely the one who the masses want to remove from power? The Yankee intentions in Nicaragua are similar to those which they encouraged South Africa to carry out in Namibia. There, also, the apartheid regime is maneuvering with wornout elections, which in essence are aimed at impeding the armed struggle headed by the South-West African People's Organization. With that method the racists are attempting to perpetuate their illegal occupation of Namibia and install a regime subordinate to South Africa which would follow orders emanating from Pretoria. The main objective of imperialism and its lackeys is to impede Namibia's independence for which its people are struggling and which all world progressive forces are advocating.

Another example of North American mediation can be seen in Zimbabwe, where together with Great Britain, the U.S. Government has invented a plan of alleged transfer of power to the African majorities. Despite the rejection of the Patriotic Front, the dirty maneuver was echoed by some puppet leaders who joined hands with Ian Smith, betraying the people's struggle for independence. Ian Smith is receiving military aid from his Western allies and, like the South African leaders, he strengthens his regime militarily, represses the people, attacks neighboring countries and perpetrates the most brutal crimes.

U.S. mediation and its consequences today become evident in the Middle East. A result of that is the betrayal of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat and his collusion with Israel. The great struggle of the North American administration is to achieve the signing of the so-called separate peace treaty. Carter even says that if it is not signed immediately, serious mistakes will be committed. It must be recalled that the treaty, made in Washington by U.S. mediators, essentially favors the Israeli regime, provides for some benefits to As-Sadat in payment for his betrayal, but denies the rights of the Palestinian people and tends to deepen division in the midst of the Arab nation.

Something similar is being plotted against Cyprus. There an attempt is also being made to impose a North American plan to solve that Mediterranean island's problem. That plan advocates the division of the country, a plan which strikes at its sovereignty and contradicts the Cypriot people's interests. We have cited some examples. The wretched policy of Washington and its allies is evident in all of them. In all of them the reactionary nature of the so-called North American mediation is revealed.

COSTA RICAN LEGISLATORS TOUR CIENFUEGOS MUNICIPALITY

FL142116Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2102 GMT 14 Dec 78 FL

[Text] The Costa Rican deputies who are visiting us have toured manufacturing areas and social projects under construction in the industrial zone and other areas of Cienfuegos municipality. The areas visited included the tricontinental bulk sugar terminal, the fishing port under construction, the fertilizer plant which already is in production, the 5 September Stadium and the Conrado Benitez teacher training school.

INDER'S GARCIA-BANGO RECEIVED BY PANAMA'S ROYO

FL141141Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Panamanian President Aristides Royo has received Jorge Garcia-Bango, president of Cuba's National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation [INDER]. During the talks, which were held at the Palace of (Las Cartas), it was agreed to intensify sports exchanges and technical cooperation in different sports fields as well as sign an agreement to normalize relations between the two countries in that branch. Garcia-Bango heads an INDER delegation which will remain in Panama until tomorrow, Friday, when it will travel to Mexico and Canada.

DELEGATION DISTRIBUTES PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST'S SPEECH AT UN

FL141129Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Dec 78 FL

[Text] The Cuban delegation to the United Nations has handed out to delegates to the General Assembly the text of the speech that Juan Mari Bras, secretary general of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, would have read before the UN's Fourth Committee.

Cuba's permanent representative to the United Nations, Raul Roa Kouri, referred to the U.S. maneuvers which impeded Mari Bras' appearance before the Fourth UN Committee on colonial affairs. Roa Kouri said: That act demonstrates how a colonial superpower can stop even the assembly's committee responsible for decolonization problems from hearing the representative of people who are subjected to one of the most perverse processes of historic depersonalization. For his part, Mari Bras denounced the United States for attempting to stop Puerto Rico's independence and frustrating the mandate of the decolonization committee.

ACTIVITIES OF VISITING IRAQI LEADER REPORTED

Saddam Husayn Honors Marti

FL142109Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2102 GMT 14 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Saddam Husayn, Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council vice chairman and Arab Socialist Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, today laid a floral wreath at the national monument to Cuban national hero Jose Marti at Revolution Plaza.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, accompanied the distinguished visitor on his homage to Marti. Cuban Ambassador to Iraq Juan Carretero was also present.

Remarks to Saddam Husayn

FL150204Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Dec 78 FL

[Excerpt] After the [wreath laying] ceremony Fidel briefly chatted with Saddam Husayn.

[Begin Castro recording] This is old, this did not last very long. This is the plaza where we hold events. This can hold up to one million [people]. One million people have gathered in front of this monument. It is for traditional [words indistinct]. We call this the Plaza of the Revolution. We did not build this [Marti] monument. It was built in another era. We have not built many monuments. The building which you visited, the offices of the party, state and of the executive council of the [words indistinct] was, also a former building, the Palace of Justice. We have adapted it. For all practical purposes we have not built any public buildings. We have built other things [words indistinct]. They were monumental offices, types of pyramids. [Words indistinct] [end recording]

Another activity of the delegation from the Republic of Iraq which is in our country was to visit the Granma memorial.

Saddam Husayn, accompanied by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, toured the installations of the Museum of the Revolution, where the delegation from the fraternal country saw tanks, airplanes and vehicles which in one way or another took part in our struggles and are objects of unquestionable importance to our revolutionary process. At the Museum of the Revolution they were attended by Lt Col Nelson M. Martinez [museum director] and Maj Gonzalo Hernandez, deputy chief of the history section of the Revolutionary Armed Forces Political Directorate, who explained aspects of our history to the visitors.

Castro Hosts Reception

JN150837Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpt] Havana, 15 December--Saddam Husayn, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Revolutionary Command Council vice chairman, attended a reception last night hosted in his honor by Dr Fidel Castro, PCC first secretary and president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers.

The reception was attended by the delegation accompanying the vice chairman, members of the PCC Politburo, high-ranking officials, and heads of diplomatic missions in Havana.

Blas Roca Calderio, vice president of the Cuban Council of State and president of the National Assembly, delivered a speech in which he welcomed the comrade vice chairman and his visit to Cuba. He said the vice chairman's visit is welcomed by the Cuban Government and people. Blas Roca Calderio praised Iraq and its struggle against imperialism and colonialism. He also praised developments in relations between the two friendly countries which serve the struggle of the Iraqi and Cuban peoples. At the end of Roca Calderio's speech President Fidel Castro bestowed upon the vice chairman the Order of Jose Marti, the highest medal in Cuba.

In a reply speech, Saddam Husayn described the medal as "the sign of the joint friendship and struggle between our countries, peoples and parties."

Saddam Husayn added: Inasmuch as this medal is dear to you because it reminds you of a prominent leader and a patriotic hero in Cuba, it also enjoys our great pride and will remain an everlasting symbol of our force, friendship and joint struggle against imperialism and exploitation and for the good of our people and the good of the peoples of the world. Saddam Husayn concluded: Thank you comrades once again and I wish the friendly Cuban people continued progress and prosperity. Thank you. The vice chairman then presented an Arab sword to Dr Fidel Castro. Dr Castro accepted the gift with thanks and expressed pride in receiving it.

IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH COUNTERPART IN HAVANA

JN150839Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 15 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Havana, 15 December--Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met here last night with Cuban Foreign Relations Minister Isidoro Octavio Malmierca Peoli. During the meeting the two ministers discussed relations between Iraq and Cuba and ways to strengthen them in all domains. They also reviewed the current Arab situation and the international issues that are of mutual concern. The two ministers exchanged views on the future of the nonalined movement. Their views were identical on the need to develop the movement and support its principles.

VILMA ESPIN CHAIRS FMC NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

FL141237Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], has presided at a meeting of that organization's National Committee. In the meeting the participants adopted agreements dealing with the holding of the 13th national plenum, which will take place from 19 to 21 December at the Fe del Valle national cadre school in this capital.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed to send greetings to all culture workers, who are today celebrating the day of culture workers for the first time.

BRIEFS

TRADE DELEGATION IN MOZAMBIQUE--A Cuban delegation headed by Juan M re, of the Foreign Trade Ministry, has arrived in Mozambique to hold talks on expanding trade between the two countries. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1914 GMT 11 Dec 78 FL]

NEW PEASANT COOPERATIVE--A peasant cooperative was formed in Guines municipality of Havana Province called "Amistad Cuba-Bulgaria," at an event at which Jose Ramirez Cruz, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the National Association of Small Farmers, spoke. This is the first cooperative to be set up in Guines municipality but the ninth in Havana Province. [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Dec 78 FL]

UJC DELEGATION IN YUGOSLAVIA--A delegation of the Union of Young Communists [UJC] headed by (Niero) Alfonso, member of the organization's national bureau, has arrived in Belgrade, where it will participate in the congress of the Federation of Socialist Youth of Yugoslavia which will begin tomorrow, Wednesday, and end next Friday. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1436 GMT 12 Dec 78 FL]

REID SAYS JONESTOWN WILL NOT AFFECT TIES WITH U.S.

FL141730Y Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Dec 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister P. A. Reid has said he does not see the Jonestown disaster in any way affecting relations between Guyana and the United States of America.

"I think the government and people of the United States will understand incidents like these far more than we do with their larger population and greater experience. They will understand that these things happen in the world," he told a group of journalists yesterday.

He also explained that it was the Guyanese people more than any other who have suffered most from the November 18 disaster in which over 900 people died in what is believed to be a suicide episode.

And, noting that the Jonestown disaster was an unusual one and that from any such disaster lessons must be learnt, he explained that the lesson learnt by Guyana was "that even religious groups must be looked at for a longer time--especially when they come from certain parts of the world...."

Asked about the options which the government might be considering at this state following the disaster, he explained that while a number of things were now being considered, no firm decisions have yet been taken.

However, the government was prepared to continue developing the Jonestown area as part of the thrust into the hinterland since Guyanese should not allow the disaster to deter their efforts.

Jim Jones and the People's Temple, Cde Reid said, were given permission to set up their agricultural settlement in Guyana because their programme was in keeping with that of the government and people of Guyana; they were very highly recommended; "and they came here as a religious organisation--People's Temple, Disciples of Christ"--registered and recognised in the United States.

He himself had never visited the temple's agricultural plot before the tragedy but several officers who visited the settlement never discredited what they saw the settlers doing, he said.

Development

Jones and his followers, he said, came to do land development and were granted a lease of 3,000 acres of land and had there been reports that no land development was taking place in the area, the lease would have been withdrawn.

The general secretary of the ruling party and deputy prime minister also pointed out that officials from the American Embassy in Guyana visited the settlement and to the best of his knowledge they all seemed satisfied with what they saw and never made any adverse reports.

Smuggling

And, replying to queries about the discovery of unlicensed guns at Jonestown, he explained that that was a very serious offence in this country but did not necessarily mean that the police were not doing their jobs.

The settlement, he said, was located at such a place that it would have been possible for people to get guns into the area in a number of ways. On the country's border people keep smuggling items to and from and evade the police, he explained.

BRAZIL

GOVERNMENT APPEALS TO CHILE, ARGENTINA FOR HARMONY

PY141742Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1646 GMT 14 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 14 Dec (AFP)--Brazil made a fervent appeal here today to the Argentine and Chilean governments for them to continue negotiating the Beagle Channel question, "guided by the firm desire to achieve agreeable solutions and to maintain peace among the great family of American nations." This appeal of the Brazilian Government was made through a communique which Ambassador Dario de Castro Alves, general secretary of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, handed here today to the Argentine ambassador and Chilean charge d'affaires.

In its communique, the Brazilian Government indicates that it is concerned about the situation between the two countries due to the dispute in the Beagle region.

Brazil, although faithful to the principal of nonintervention in the internal and external affairs of other nations, and without intending to discuss the merits of the question, in its note emphasized that it is within its rights to demonstrate its sentiments in support of harmony.

Finally, the Brazilian Government emphasized that the spirit and letter of the OAS charter must continue to prevail among this continent's nations which share the same aspirations and the purpose of co-existing in peace and promoting, with mutual understanding and respect for each nation's sovereignty, the progress of all in independence, equality and legality.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PRD LEADER ISSUES DENIAL ON CUBAN EXILES' RESIDENCE

PA141526Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0547 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 13 Dec (EFE)--The secretary general of the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] today accused Cuban exile circles in Miami of undertaking a broad campaign to discredit the ruling PRD government. Jose Francisco Pena Gomez said that the campaign being carried out by some newspapers seeks to create the image that the current government is leading the country into communism.

He also denied reports on an agreement with the U.S. Government to permit hundreds of Cuban political exiles to reside here. He said that the government had received no pressure from the United States or suggestions on the subject. As for his party, he said that so far no one has asked it to permit the arrival of Cuban exiles in the Dominican Republic.

JAMAICA

MANLEY HAILS CREATION OF WORKERS' PARTY OF JAMAICA

FL141539Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1511 GMT 14 Dec 78 FL

[Text] The Jamaican People's National Party has hailed the founding of the Workers' Party of Jamaica and noted the importance of maintaining the unity of all progressive forces in the struggle against imperialism. The Jamaican People's National Party has at the same time confirmed its commitment to protect the right of each citizen to join any political association.

Those opinions were expressed in a letter sent by Prime Minister Michael Manley to Trevor Munroe, secretary general of the Workers' Liberation League, the organization which this week will become the Workers' Party of Jamaica. In his letter Manley praises the position adopted by Munroe and the Workers' Party of Jamaica, which advocates consolidation of the anti-imperialist struggle through cohesion of the national progressive movement.

Communist Representatives To Celebrate

FL141640Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Dec 78 p 2 FL

[Excerpt] Representatives of communist parties in 14 countries, spreading from the Caribbean across North America to Europe and Africa, are expected to attend the launching at the Regal Cinema on Sunday of the Workers' Party of Jamaica.

Announcement of the programme for the congress was made by Dr Trevor Munroe, UWI [University of the West Indies] senior lecturer and general secretary of the Workers' Liberation League, at a press conference at the league's office in Kingston, yesterday.

He said that delegates would be arriving from communist parties and workers' parties in a number of Caribbean and Latin American countries, from Canada, the United States and Great Britain; from the Soviet Union, Cuba and the Zimbabwe African People's Union. One delegate, Miss Millicent Gordon from the Caribbean Labour Solidarity (CLS) of Britain, had already arrived.

SHOOTING INCIDENTS IN WEST KINGSTON CREATE TENSION

FL141650Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Dec 78 pp 1, 23 FL

[Excerpts] The truce declared by warring political factions in the corporate area last January is becoming increasingly unstable in Kingston's Westend.

Since this week there have been several shooting incidents with political and gang overtones in which at least four youths have died.

Tension is again running high in the west. Politically identifiable people are again not venturing out of their tribalised communities.

After 11 months of comparative peace in this ghetto belt, explosions are again punctuating the air. They are not Christmas firecrackers or the sound made by children stamping air filled milk cartons. The guns are barking again.

The peace, fragile at best, has always been experiencing shaky periods.

There have been rebel elements and criminal ones which so-called top rankings had their hands full trying to contain.

Police are not putting any bets that the truce will see its first anniversary next January, and are keeping their fingers crossed.

Guns were never turned in after the truce, which was in the main triggered by the Green Bay affair in which five youths were gunned down in an army ambush.

And one thing is certain as a police officer told the GLEANER: "The guns are still in town."

JLP WANTS EQUAL VOICE IN PUBLICLY OWNED MEDIA

FL141655Y Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English 10 Dec 78 pp 1, 3 FL

[Excerpts] The Jamaica Labour Party [JLP] said yesterday that it wants an equal voice in the appointment of the board of directors of the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation and the JAMAICA DAILY NEWS.

A statement from party leader Mr Edward Seaga said that both the JBC and the DAILY NEWS "Are fully owned government enterprises financed by the taxpayers of the country, but are being used as propaganda arms of the PNP [People's National Party]."

The statement said the standing committee of the JLP took this decision on Monday night against the background of further deterioration in the role of these two government-owned media.

The statement went on:

"This decision was taken in keeping with the human rights programme of the JLP to oppose the corrupt use of the media and to make proposals which will ensure that the publicly owned media will cease to be a political tool of any party in power. The proposal for bi-partisan appointment of boards of directors of both corporations is designed to ensure that political corruption is eliminated in the operation of these corporations.

Distorted, Ignored

"The JLP has watched its news releases to these two public corporations consistently downgraded, distorted, and ignored by their policy of managed news aimed at reducing the effectiveness of the role of the opposition party.

"From the decision to treat the JBC and DAILY NEWS as political organs will flow specific and effective positive action by the opposition to reinforce its position and to focus public attention on the corrupt use of the media."

SECURITY MINISTER DUDLEY THOMPSON FALLS ILL

FL141600Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Dec 78 p 1 FL

[Text] National Security Minister, the Hon Dudley Thompson, fell ill towards last week-end and has been ordered on leave by his doctor. According to political sources the minister has been granted five weeks sick leave from his official duties but this could not be confirmed yesterday. Nor could it be confirmed what was the nature of the minister's illness. A ministry source speculated that over-exhaustion may be the problem: But sources close to the minister said that it could be that he is "genuinely ill." In the meantime, no official statement has been issued, and up to yesterday no one in the ministry could say who was acting for the minister.

URUGUAY

FOREIGN MINISTER HOPES FOR PEACEFUL BEAGLE SETTLEMENT

FY140055Y Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Dec 78 FY

[Excerpt] Asked about the Argentine-Chilean conflict over the Beagle Channel, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Adolfo Folle-Martinez stated today that the Uruguayan position remains unchanged and expressed the Uruguayan Government's hope that the conflict may be solved through peaceful means for the sake of Latin American unity.